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MARSHALL, GERSTEIN &
BORUN, LLP
233 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
6300 SEARS TOWER
CHICAGO IL 60606-6357

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of : ON APPLICATION FOR
Lu, et al. : PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT
Application No. 10/582,316 :
Filed: February 20, 2007 :
Atty Docket No. 31265/5868A :

This decision is in response to the "APPLICATION FOR PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.705(b)," filed August 6, 2009. This matter is being properly treated as an application for patent term adjustment pursuant to 37 CFR §1.705(b).

Applicants submit that the correct patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent is in excess of one hundred fifty (150) days if one uses as a reference the 6.5 months from the allowance date used by the PTO for estimating PTA at the time of allowance (See p. 4, petition), not nine (9) days as calculated by the Office as of the mailing of the initial determination of patent term adjustment. Applicants request this correction solely on the basis that the Office will take in excess of three years to issue this patent¹.

¹ Applicants state that no request for early processing under 35 U.S.C. §371(f) was filed for the present application. See p.4, petition. This statement is inaccurate, as box 3 on the June 8, 2006 TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A NATIONAL STAGE FILING DATE UNDER 35 U.S.C. §371 was checked. However, because applicants did not satisfy all §371(c) requirements prior to the expiration of 30 months, the over three year delay will be calculated based on the application commencement date, which is June 10, 2006. See 35 U.S.C. §371(b).

As the instant application for patent term adjustment requests reconsideration of the patent term adjustment as it relates to the Office's failure to issue the patent within 3 years of the commencement date, the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) is **DISMISSED as PREMATURE.**

Knowledge of the actual date the patent issues is required to calculate the amount, if any, of additional patent term patentee is entitled to for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. See § 1.702(b). The computer will not undertake the § 1.702(b) calculation until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. Likewise, the computer will not calculate any further Office delay under § 1.702(a)(4) or applicant delay under § 1.704(c)(10) until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. As such, the Office can not make a determination on the correctness of the patent term adjustment until the patent has issued.

Requesting reconsideration of the patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent under 37 CFR 1.705(b) based on the initial determination of patent term adjustment and a projected issuance date of the patent is premature. Accordingly, it is appropriate to dismiss as premature such a request.

Rather than file an application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) contesting the 37 CFR 1.702(b) calculation at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, applicants are advised that they may wait until the time of the issuance of the patent and file a request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d). As the USPTO does not calculate the amount of time earned pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(b) until the time of the issuance of the patent, the Office will consider any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment due to an error in the calculation of 37 CFR 1.702(b) to be timely if the request for reconsideration is filed within two months of the issuance of the patent. However, as to all other bases for contesting the initial determination of patent term adjustment received with the notice of allowance, applicants must timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee².

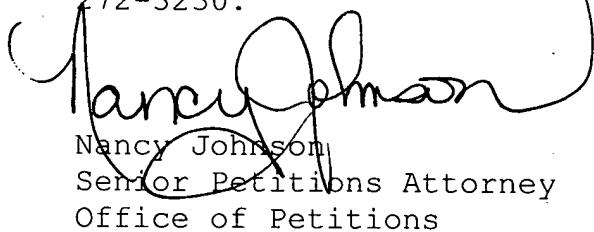
² For example, if applicant disputes both the calculation of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1) for Office failure to mail a first Office action or notice of allowance not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application was filed and under 37 CFR 1.702(b) for Office failure to issue a patent within three years of the actual filing date of the

The Office acknowledges submission of the \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e) for consideration of the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b).

Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated on the patent must be timely filed within 2 months after issuance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d) and must include payment of the required fee under 37 CFR 1.18(e).

The Office of Data Management has been advised of this decision. This application is being referred to the Office of Data Management for issuance of the patent.

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision should be directed to Senior Petitions Attorney Shirene Willis Brantley at (571) 272-3230.



Nancy Johnson
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

application, then applicant must still timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee to contest the calculation of Office delay in issuing a first Office action or notice of allowance. See 37 CFR 1.705(b) and 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B). A dispute as to the calculation of the §1.702(a)(1) period raised on request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(d) will be dismissed as untimely filed.